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TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – THE SALVATION
ARMY, THE WAY IN GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of The Way In Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by The Salvation Army. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

The Way In Group Home is a 14-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 15-18 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, The Way In Group Home was providing services for 14 Los Angeles County DCFS children. The Way In Group Home is located in the Third District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

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Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to make repairs to its facility.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:gw

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
Gabriella Wynn, Executive Director, The Way In
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
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**The Salvation Army
The Way In
5939 Hollywood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90020
Phone: (323) 469-2946
License No.: 1917600971
Rate Classification Level: 14**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Way In Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a large dormitory-style facility located in a business community. The Group Home is spacious comfortable, well maintained and blends well with the other businesses on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The Group Home's common rooms are nicely decorated, well maintained and provide a home-like atmosphere. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, some areas in the bathrooms and bedrooms need improvement.

The floors in the resident bathrooms are dirty.

In bedroom number 201, the closet door is broken and the desktop has extensive writing on it. In bedroom number 202, the desktops are scratched, the desk drawers are missing, there is extensive writing on the inside of the closet, and the closet drawers are broken. In bedroom number 203, the desktop and light fixture is scratched. In bedroom number 204, the closet drawers are missing and in bedroom number 205, the desk drawers are missing.

In bedroom number 301, the desk drawers are missing and the light fixture has writing on it. In bedroom number 302, there is a stain on the carpet. In bedroom number 304, the desk drawer is missing, there is a stain on the carpet, and the desktop is badly scratched.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, TVs, and VCRs. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

1. The Salvation Army management:

- a. Clean the bathroom floors.**
- b. Repair or replace the furniture and light fixtures in the resident bedrooms.**
- c. Replace the carpet in bedrooms 302 and 304.**
- d. Remove the writing from the furniture and closets in the resident bedrooms.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plan (NSP) for one resident is current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There is documentation to support the placement worker's participation in the development and update of the NSP. The quarterly report for one resident is current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP.

The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require an NSP or a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents are attending school. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for three case files

Comments:

The residents have a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with most staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that although they are not assigned chores to complete on a daily basis, they do work/chores around the Group Home to earn extra money. The chores are reasonable and not too demanding.

Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel

that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.